

**learn  
something**

January 21, 2002

Renata B. Hesse  
Antitrust Division  
U. S. Department of Justice  
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Ms. Hesse:

As a small business owner, I employ several people. Recently, I had to lay off some staff, which last year did not seem possible. But, as I'm sure you are aware, the once raging high-tech economy is now barely limping along.

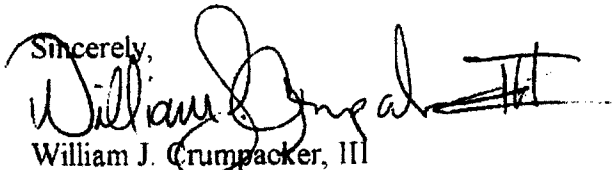
I think that the never-ending lawsuit against Microsoft has contributed to the slowing of the economy as innovation and funding have dried up. Microsoft is a huge player in my industry, and when they clinch up, uncertain of what this lawsuit is going to do, the entire tech world is slowed, virtually frozen in place wondering what comes next.

That is why I hope the court will accept the terms of the agreement on the table now. It seems fair to me. Microsoft will now grant hardware companies new rights to configure Windows so they have the freedom to promote non-Microsoft products within Windows programs. This was a good sign from Microsoft.

Moreover, I don't think that the Government needs to be in the technology industry. If some companies - like AOL Time Warner - cannot compete, that is their own detriment, and Uncle Sam does not need to do their work for them.

My business will be in much better shape if this lawsuit is settled, and I will be able to hire more people and contribute to the economy.

Sincerely,



William J. Crumpacker, III  
CEO